

ARENARIA HINTONIORUM (CARYOPHYLLACEAE), A NEW GYPSEOUS SPECIES FROM SOUTHERN NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Arenaria*, *A. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, is described from southern Nuevo León, where it is confined to gypseous outcrops. It is related to *A. lanuginosa* but differs in having nearly glabrous foliage and essentially linear leaves (1.0 mm wide or less).

KEY WORDS: Caryophyllaceae, *Arenaria*, gypsum, México

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty.

***Arenaria hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, sp. nov.** TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, along road from La Escondida to Aramberri, scattered plants on gypsum hillsides, 1330 m, 23 Oct 1993, *G.B. Hinton et al.* 29706 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Arenariae lanuginosae (Michx.) Rohrb. similis sed foliis linearibus vel anguste lineari-lanceolatis 0.5-1.0 mm latis marginibus glabris vel minute hispidis, floribus minoribus, et seminibus minoribus brunneisque differt.

Stiffly erect or sprawling perennial herbs 1-2 dm high. Stems minutely hispidulous with downcurved hairs, appearing glabrous to the unaided eye. Leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, 10-15 mm long, 0.1-1.0 mm wide, glabrous or nearly so, the margins entire. Flowers mostly arranged 5-11 in rather strict terminal cymes, the pedicels glabrous, 10-25 mm long. Sepals ca. 2.5 mm long, glabrous, the margins scariosus. Petals 4-5, narrowly ovate, white, 2.5-3.0 mm long, the apices often revolute. Stamens 8-10, ca. 3 mm long, the anthers white. Ovary ovoid, ca. 2 mm long, glabrous; styles 2-3, separate ca. 1.5 mm

long. Capsule 5-valvate, ca. 3 mm long. Seeds brown, 0.5-0.6 mm long, ca. 0.5 mm wide, the lateral surfaces smooth, the dorsal sides \pm granular ornate, especially near the hilum.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, gypsum hillside, 1145 m, 16 Jun 1990, *G.B. Hinton et al. 20383* (TEX). Tamaulipas: 18 mi SE of Bustamante towards Tula, 1700 m, "possibly slightly gypseous" soils, 1700 m, 20 May 1973, *Johnston et al. 11159A* (LL).

This taxon is superficially similar to *Arenaria lanuginosa* (Michx.) Rohrb., and when first encountered (*Hinton 20383*) I took the plants concerned to be depauperate or freak forms of that species. The more recent collections clearly differ from *A. lanuginosa* in having essentially linear, nearly glabrous leaves (vs. elliptic to lance-elliptic), minutely hispidulous vestiture (vs. puberulous or pilose), and smaller brown seeds (ca. 0.5-0.6 mm long vs. 0.7-0.8 mm). *Arenaria lanuginosa* occurs in the general region of *A. hintoniorum*, but so far as known the former occurs in pine-oak forests at higher elevations (1600-3200 m) in calcareous soils or among limestone outcrops.

The collection from Tamaulipas cited above has somewhat broader leaves than the Nuevo León collections (0.5-1.0 mm wide vs. 0.1-0.5 mm) with a more hispidulous pubescence, but it has the flowers and seeds of *Arenaria hintoniorum*, hence its inclusion here.

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